New high school design is one of the first of its kind

When it is complete, the new Hayes Freedom High School in Camas is likely to be the first of its kind in the country.

That's because it will be a "net zero-ready," structure, which basically means that the schools will theoretically be able to produce as much energy as it consumes during a year, creating a net zero effect.

Camas School District officials unveiled the design for the new 20,500 square foot building, which includes special insulation, fiberglass windows, overhangs, automatic light dimming controls and skylights, among other features.

"It's a great opportunity for us to make a building we have to participate in to make it run and work well," Hayes Freedom Principal Amy Holmes said. "The environment has always been a focus of our school."

Construction is expected to be complete by June 2010.